

Service Area Strategic Plan

Department of Social Services (765)

Service Area 11 of 33

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Child Care Subsidies (765 452 14)

Description

This service area provides child care assistance to TANF families who are working or engaged in work activities. Transitional Child Care assistance is also provided to eligible post-TANF families who are working. Child care subsidies are provided through the local departments of social services.

Background Information

Mission Alignment and Authority

- *Describe how this service supports the agency mission*

By assisting TANF families with child care assistance, this service area helps them become more self-sufficient, shape strong futures for themselves and contribute towards their communities through work.

- *Describe the Statutory Authority of this Service*

Federal Legal Basis - The Child Care Development Block Grant (Public Law 101-508) Hunger Prevention Act of 1988

Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, amended PL 101-508 to become the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF); legislation which establishes the work requirements associated with the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Block Grant and establishes the Child Care and Development Fund Block Grant to increase the availability, affordability and quality of child care, serving TANF and low-income families through child care subsidies. Federal Regulation – 45 CFR, Parts 98 & 99, which set the regulations for the state Lead Agency to administer the CCDF. Code of Virginia - §§ 63.2-611 and 63.2-616, which focuses on the Virginia Independence Program (VIP) and the Virginia Initiative for Employment not Welfare (VIEW) Program.

Customers

Agency Customer Group	Customer	Customers served annually	Potential annual customers
General Public (served unknown; potential unlimited)	General Public	62,538	0
Governmental Entities (served unknown; potential unlimited)	Local Departments of Social Services	120	120
Businesses (served unknown; potential unlimited)	Providers (Child Care Providers)	10,300	0
Individuals, Children and Families (served unknown; potential unlimited)	TANF-related children	15,875	0

Anticipated Changes To Agency Customer Base

TANF Child Care caseloads increase or decrease as TANF caseloads change. Consistent with the recent decreases in the number of TANF cases, TANF child care subsidy recipients also declined. Although the child care subsidy caseload decreased, costs for child care services have steadily risen. Expenditures for child care assistance have continued to increase in each year of the past five fiscal years. Any decrease in families served has been offset by higher child care costs paid directly to child care providers.

Partners

Partner	Description
Community Action Agencies	
Local Departments of Social Services	
State Agencies	
Virginia Institute for Social Services Training Activities (VISSTA)	

Products and Services

- *Factors Impacting the Products and/or Services:*

The need for greater quality in the child care industry continues to increase. Recent research has highlighted that the earliest years of a child's life are the most important for healthy development, and becoming ready to succeed in school and later life. In Virginia, Department of Education test scores for kindergarteners indicate that one in every five children is not ready for school. Approximately 65% of Virginia's children aged five and under are in some form of child care, but there are many types of care and varying levels of quality available for families. Likewise, the cost of child care can be more than the cost of a year of college tuition, making child care a major expense for low-income families.

- *Anticipated Changes to the Products and/or Services*

Federal requirements for implementation of a Child Care Error rate mandate the development and implementation of a Child Care Quality Assurance program. Virginia is scheduled to reach full implementation status in FFY09. Automation of the Child Care Subsidy program and the creation of an online training/education tracking system for improving provider competencies in early care and education will ensure that VDSS is able to meet federal requirements and provide for customer service needs.

As a result of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2006, increased funding requirements for TANF associated cases lower the amount of funding available for other eligible low-income families, who, by definition, are at risk of becoming dependent upon TANF. VDSS and local departments must continually balance these competing customer needs.

- *Listing of Products and/or Services*
 - Support of organizations serving communities
 - Services to promote family stability

- Economic assistance to low income facilities/individuals or nutrition, child care, health care and financial assistance to low income families/individuals
- Services that promote self-sufficiency

Finance

- *Financial Overview*

Funding for the TANF Day Care program comes from general funds and federal funds. The federal funds are from the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) - Mandatory and Matching funds.

- *Financial Breakdown*

	Fiscal Year 2009		Fiscal Year 2010	
	General Fund	Nongeneral Fund	General Fund	Nongeneral Fund
Base Budget	\$29,742,896	\$43,996,425	\$29,742,896	\$43,996,425
Change To Base	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Service Area Total	\$29,742,896	\$43,996,425	\$29,742,896	\$43,996,425

Service Area Objectives

- Provide eligible TANF children child care subsidy assistance

Alignment to Agency Goals

- Agency Goal: Maximize the economic independence, safety and stability of individuals and families

Comment: Providing child care for all TANF children who need it is strategically aligned with the mission of the agency. It also supports the Council on Virginia's Future long term objective: Inspire and support Virginians toward healthy lives and strong, resilient families.

Objective Measures

- Number of TANF children who receive child care subsidies

Governor's Key:

No

Measure Type:

Output

Measure Frequency:

Annual

Frequency Comment: Number of TANF children served through child care subsidies

Measure Baseline: 28,217 TANF children received a child care subsidy in SFY 2005

Measure Target: 28,781 TANF children will receive a child care subsidy by the end of SFY 2010

Data Source and Calculation: The data will be captured through the Child Care Interim System, in which local departments report client and case specific expenditures each month. An unduplicated count of children by program area can be calculated.